

MPO Meeting Minutes – Joint Meeting March 14, 2013

PC Vice Chair Babb – opened meeting at 10:00 and turned over to PC Chair Ross.

Guests were recognized – Newly formed District Board Member Roger Williams, was present and introduced as well as Peter Emmanuel GDOT Project Manager for Rocky Face Intersection, and returning guest, Brittany Pittman - Sole Commissioner, Murray County.

GDOT Project Status Report:

- I75 @Carbondale Road – Roundabout at top of interchanges proposed for 2016 construction Approved in FY17, and GDOT recognizes a local desire to accelerate this construction schedule, the funding that far out may not be available. FY13 is the only secure Federal funding at this time.

GDOT noted Transportation funding is exempted from sequestration, however, the Federal Highway Trust fund is supplemented by the Federal General Funds and that could be at risk. There is a large push by GDOT in purchasing ROW as fast as possible, with property owners meeting taking place and in the process of buying ROW now as ROW is fully funded.

- Intersection SR2/3/201/71 Lump sum funded for ROA and February 2013
- Culvert Replacement at SR3 and Little swamp Creek, Construction 2014 ROW for 2013 Management ROW as 2013. Bridge on HWY41 question to GDOT– How much interruption to traffic? Greg Hood will research whether the replacement entails tearing brined out to route around or building a parallel bridge.
- Roundabout project SR201 @SR2 Lump Sum – MGT LET date 2015 and MGT ROW date 2014 February
- Walnut Ave and I75 ramps ROW is local and construction is lump sum funded; MGT ROW date is Oct 2013 and MGT LET date is Aug 2014
- Safe routes to schools – sidewalk projects involving 6 local schools in Dalton lump sum funded for construction – MGT LET date is 2014. Ty addressed GDOT Commissioner explaining Dalton public schools were the recipient of a SRTS grants and they are focusing this on the six elementary schools that are now parent responsibility zones around them due to the cut back on bus transportation.
- Transportation enhancement – Bike and Pedestrian project city street 725, 874 and Chattanooga Ave, 7th st and RR at three locations, lump sum funded and so far, this project has not have a MGT LET date. Peter Emmanuel , GDOT PM estimated December 2013. In process of coordinating with Ty Ross and Mayor who did sign the concurrence letter. Office of Program Control is trying to implement that schedule into the transportation management schedule so it will show up on our project status report in 2013. FY 2014 – City of Dalton working closely with the environmental document to proceed with final plans and steady progress is being made with a goal to have the project let December 2013. Ty noted the acceleration of the date was

due to close coordination between Benny Dunn in project details conducted in-house and made it easy to move forward.

- Indiana Bat provisions still a huge delay factor.
- Have a maintenance project for re-surfacing - SRT 201 from west of New Hope Church Road to Sonia Drive – lump sum funded and has a MGT LET date of Dec 2013.
- More resurfacing maintenance SR 52 – E Abutment Road – MGT LET 2013
- SR 52 resurfacing all of West Walnut E of i75 to 673 Abutment Road – Dec 2013.
- Rocky Face 2014 fully underway – and SR52 will be available to detour .

Administrative Report:

- Preparing 5303 and 5307 applications for Federal funding of Transit and Intermodal Planning.
- Quarterly reporting for these grants completed.
- Website updated
- TIP Draft projects in short range project priority list.
- Staff attended ADA TITLE VI training – compliance for fair and equal access. Subsequently will collect all Transition and Non-Discrimination plans.
- GDMPO – Georgia Association of MPO's is being hosted in Dalton, November 2013–Planning and coordination have started and facility and Hotel will be selected in next month. Recommendations to add to the agenda requested, and heavy planning begins in June.
- Received PL contract carry over funding 2013 planning funding to FY2014; it is a little less than \$100K.
- UPWP development has begun and draft will be emailed to the committees no later than end of March. MPO is awaiting TIP projects from GDOT and when received will begin 2014 update.
- Staffing changes from Intermodal in GDOT - few delays in contracts but working it out.
- Bartow Officially designated MPO to GA -
- Still in process of developing MOU with Murray County on portion of Chatsworth under the Urbanized Planning Boundary of the GDMPO that will become effective July 1, 2013.
- Kent attended Thrive 2055 regional planning initiative in Chattanooga and the MPO provided GIS Maps for regional planning use.
- MPO Coordinator received training from District office on project status reports and project timelines.

Votes on Action Items:

- Approval of Agenda – Approved, unanimous

- Approval of October 18, 2012 Joint Meeting Minutes – Approved, unanimous
- Approval of TCC February meeting minutes - Approved, unanimous

RR Crossing Closure Safety Project Presentation– Cooperative efforts between Whitfield County, Norfolk Southern and GDOT to construct a new road on the west side of the NS tracks from Gordon County and close five hazardous crossings; It would allow residents to have two good crossings and eliminate safety hazards. NS will submit some funding for each crossing that is closed and GDOT has proposed paying for the PE and Construction . Whitfield County will pay for the ROW Acquisition.

We have a draft Project Framework Agreement to review and return to GDOT.

Carbondale road is very close to the tracks and there have been numerous accidents and several fatalities at these crossings in the past decade. This would dramatically improve the safety for our citizens.

Additional discussion noted proposed improvements to the Savannah Harbor – widening and deepening; CSX and NS are two major rails that service the harbor and traffic load on these lines is expected to increase significantly, according to NS. Norfolk Southern considers this crossing closure project their top priority dangerous section of track and also said the possibility in the future that they may have to double track up through this area to accommodate the freight from Atlanta to Chattanooga. If that occurs, it potentially increases the hazardous conditions. Norfolk Southern is very interested and willing to cooperate and work with us to getting the traffic on the left side to get new crossings and signalization. Both GDOT and NS have said this is the most important rail project in the state of GA at this time. The County wants to ensure the safety of citizens. The next step is to review the Project Framework Agreement Draft.

It will be noted that one crossing is Henry Owens, so the MPO will need to be certain this is reflected properly in the TIP.

Ty Ross mentioned Crisp County has an inland port which facilitates containers coming from the Port of Savannah and provides an economic driver for them. He asked the MPO to look into that as a future project or consider studying the container port in the Dalton area. Ms. Paredes was asked to contact Codele planning team and see what it took to put that together.

Traffic Congestion Management Success:

Signalization at Smith Industrial and Bypass had signalization issues causing substantial traffic back up into and out of the City during rush hour. Benny and Andrew and Chad (GDOT) were commended on their success to correct this and respond to the community complaints.

All agreed they have a good plan implemented now – but need a traffic engineering consultant to take new counts and recommend different time of day coordination patterns. Additional concerns with SR 3 near hospital were mentioned - signals need to be adjusted for the new construction changes.

TSPLOST on signal upgrades – GPS 500 per unit plus a couple hundred per unit – would the county be able to

Babb agreed to split the cost of GPS 500 with the City to get this and other traffic problem straightened out for citizens. Benny agreed there were at least 4-5 intersections about 12 x 500 funded jointly city and County. Benny recognized Andrew Parker and Chad (GDOT) for their diligence to correct this problem.

Peter Emmanuel worked with local citizens on the Rocky Face Interchange Project to meet needs of the community and local businesses and was available to answer questions regarding this project.

At which time the meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT